

AMAA news

Publication of the Armenian Missionary Association of America
JULY/AUG 2004 - Vol. XXXVII No. 4 (ISSN 1097-0924)



"Let The Children Come!"

Peter Doghramji

All religions are oriented toward adults of the species; children are incidental. There may be ceremonial rites of passage for them – circumcision, baptism, and rituals of initiation. However, they are mostly bystanders. Religion is not primarily for children because they are not mature enough to understand its complexities.

The ministry of Jesus, however, includes children (and even women). Jesus tells us that children have angels who face God. The virtues of children are extolled by the Master Teacher – trust, innocence, humility. In fact, adults are exhorted to be like children, and even be born anew. This may be one good reason why God chose to have His Son “conceived by the Holy Spirit and borne by the Virgin Mary”, as the Creed proclaims.

It is arrogant to claim that such importance given to children is the sole prerogative of the Christian religion. It is no less presumptive to state that Armenian Protestants are unique in placing the highest premium on the education and nurture of children. Such claims are extreme and delusional. Yet, there is undeniably some truth in developing a historical perspective on the mission of the Armenian Evangelical Church, from its very inception until now, with regard to the Christian education of the young and their nurture for healthy growth.

There is a scriptural warrant for this. Jesus commissioned his “missionaries” (apostles) to teach. That is an all-inclusive mandate. There is a proper place for rebirth, regeneration, and conversion in the spiritual journey. They are all critical turning-points toward a new relationship with God. Where such crises take place, they do not endure. One cannot be born again every day. That is where

education begins and continues throughout life.

The AMAA continues to fulfil its educational mission by facilitating the children’s coming to God through Christ. This includes instruction of the basic tenets of the faith. But it is much more than that. The ultimate aim of Christian education is not indoctrination but leading children of all ages to a personal and salvific relationship with Christ.

That is why schools in the Near East, from Elementary to University, from Sunday School to Seminary, are so important. That is why summer camps play a significant role in Arme-

nia, as well as in America and the Middle East. That is why the spreading of the Bible and Christian literature – periodicals, devotional materials and other publications – are so important in achieving the goal that was adopted by the Reformers. That is why the physical health and well being of children are also paramount in the holistic stance that teachers and educators have adopted.

Our mission is to help churches “let their children come” to Christ. Where there are no churches, the mandate still holds true. We are compelled by God’s love to reach out to children everywhere and teach and nurture them for discipleship to Christ. G



BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Biblical Profiles of Missionaries and Their Mission

John: A Man Sent From God

John 1: 6 – 8

John was a relative of Jesus. His birth was announced to an astonished couple by an angel, very similar to that of Jesus. He was a child of promise, and a promising child. But he did not live up to the tradition and customs of his people. He was supposed to be a priest, as all Sons of Priests were expected to be. He became a “hippie”, ran away from city and temple, and made his home in the desert wilderness.

*John was best known as the **Baptist**. His preaching is condensed in one word: “Repent!” He was best remembered for dunking sinners in the Jordan River. How could anyone forget that experience!*

*Although he renounced the priesthood, John never took the title we give to him – **Baptist**. Scriptures has another description of John – “a man sent from God”. In modern parlance, we can rightly call him **missionary**. His job description was “to bear witness to the light”, in a world fallen into darkness. His message sounds judgmental and ominously negative. However, as a witness to the light, he was the harbinger of the Good News of God. He was an evangelist. To a people who walked in darkness, he proclaimed the light of God – God’s love, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation.*

Mission is evangelism, the proclamation of the Good News of God. John was an evangelist with a mission to testify to the light.

Thank God for the many such witnesses among us today, men and women, who are sent by God, and who are living testimonials to the light of God, even Jesus the Christ! G

2004 Summer Camps in Armenia and Karabagh

Harout Nercessian

The Armenia Summer Camp programs started in 1989, at the end of Communism in Armenia. A team of Armenian Evangelicals from France participated in a government run camp in Dzaghgatzor. This was the first Christian program in a Communist Armenia camp.

During Summer 1991, volunteers from Canada and other countries were sent to Armenia by the AMAA to organize Day Camps

in cooperation with local Evangelical churches.

During 1992, AMAA organized its own camps for hundreds of children, youth and young adults in the Nor Hajin region of Armenia. Volunteers from France, Canada and the Middle-East helped plan, organize and execute these camps. Those camps were pivotal for the strengthening of the Evangelical Church of Armenia. Scores of lives

were changed and many Evangelical Christian workers track their spiritual roots to those camps.

In cooperation with the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA), AMAA contin-



Birthday party for a camper at the North Region Summer Camp in Armenia.

ues supporting this most important ministry for Armenia's new generation. During Summer 2004, over 3,400 campers had fun at one of the three regions of Armenia:

AMAA NEWS

is a publication of
the Armenian Missionary Association of America,
31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.
Tel. (201) 265-2607; Fax (201) 265-6015
E-Mail: amaa@amaa.org;
Website: www.amaa.org

OFFICERS

Andrew Torigian, President
H. Steven Aharonian, M.D. Vice President
Robert Hekemian, Sr., Vice President
Peter Kougasian, Esq., Vice President
Harry Dulgarian, Rec. Secretary
Gary Phillips, Rec. Secretary
Eileen Chopourian Stephany, Ed.D., Rec. Secretary
Aram R. Minnetian, Treasurer
David Hekemian, Assistant Treasurer
Rev. Peter B. Doghramji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Dikran Youmshakian, Administrative Director

EDITORIAL BOARD

Rev. Peter B. Doghramji, Ph.D., Editor
Louisa Janbazian, Associate Editor, Layout & Design
Dikran Youmshakian, Advisor

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In order to keep our mailing list up to date, please send all corrections, along with the old address to: AMAA NEWS, 31 W. Century Rd., Paramus, NJ 07652
E-mail: amaanews@amaa.org

PRINTING

Printsolutions, Englewood, NJ (201) 567-9622

COVER PICTURES

Foreground: Children singing at Shushi Camp
Background: Morning Physical Exercises
at Camp "Sheen" Shoghik

AMAA JAMES G. JAMESON ESSAY CONTEST OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has announced it will once again sponsor the James G. Jameson Essay Contest. Topics should touch upon some aspect of Armenian heritage such as religion, literature, language, history, culture, geography, economy or history. Awards will be made in two categories: High School contestants and College/University contestants. The deadline for entries is October 15, 2004.

All Armenian or part-Armenian students are eligible. Only unpublished entries will be accepted. The winner in each category will be awarded \$250.00, provided from the income of a special fund established by Mr. & Mrs. James G. Jameson of Brookline, MA.

The essays should be written in English and have a length of 1,000 to 2,000 words. A contestant is allowed no more than one entry per year, and no more than one member of a family may receive an award in a five-year period. If no submitted essay is considered sufficiently meritorious, no award will be granted that year.

Entries and/or inquiries should be directed to:

AMAA - James G. Jameson Essay Contest
31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

SUMMER CAMPS - ARMENIA & KARABAGH



Children playing at the Northern Region Camp in Armenia.



Outdoor Prayer group at the Northern Region Camp in Armenia.

- Northern – Hankavan Aroghjaran
- Central – AMAA Camp “Sheen” Shoghik
- Southern - AMAA Camp Bedrosian in Shushi, Karabagh

In addition, 69 Day camps were organized in 46 cities and villages throughout Armenia and Karabagh. Seven thousand children participated in these day camps.

The camp programs are designed to provide the children with an experience full of fun and excitement. They return home with unforgettable memories of the excitement of living at camp, new friends, games, sports activities, Arts and Crafts, dramas, stories, singing, camp fire, birthday parties and special gifts.

To enhance the campers’ enjoyment, the camp provides the children with several pleasant surprises:

- The children are “greeted” by clowns and

pirates who “hijack” the buses carrying them just before arriving at camp.

■ The last night is very special. It starts with a candle-light worship service, followed by a torch-led procession to the dining room where a big birthday party of cake, ice-cream and gifts is organized for the birthday boys and girls. The children are then treated to the much-loved campfire. Here they share their experiences, sing and enjoy Armenian folk dances.

■ On the last morning, the children wake up to find special gifts of children’s battery powered toothbrushes and toothpastes under their pillows.

■ During the final worship service, just before they leave for



Camp Doctor at the Northern Region Camp in Armenia.



Children playing at the Camp "Sheen" Shoghik in Armenia.



Boys Bedroom at Camp "Sheen" Shoghik in Armenia

SUMMER CAMPS - ARMENIA & KARABAGH



Outdoor Washing area at Camp "Sheen" Shogik in Armenia.



Unpacking the arts & crafts materials sent from the United States.

home, the camp postman brings personalized farewell cards to each child.

AMAA considers education of the campers to be of utmost importance. The theme of the children's camps was "Telling others about Jesus". They are taught about Jesus, his works, love and activity and are instructed on how to tell others about Him. The theme of the Youth camps was "The Fruit of the Spirit". They are taught about the changes the Holy Spirit brings in those that respond to his love. These lessons are taught through small group discussions, messages, Arts and Crafts, dramas and songs.

The campers are also educated

about practical themes such as kindness, forgiveness, apologizing, tidiness and more. Each day is assigned a theme. Throughout the day the campers are encouraged and taught to think

about and practice it.

The youth participate in afternoon sessions on etiquette and courtesy. Each day covers a different situation. After hearing some of the rules, the campers are given a situation which they act out in the courteous and non-courteous manner.

National values are promoted through stories, national songs and cultural events.

Thanks to the many supporters, AMAA Summer programs once again brought many blessing to thousands of children. We thank God for His blessings and for the many AMAA friends and supporters who generously contribute to our camps through their prayers, donations and services. G



Group Study in the bedroom at the Northern Region Camp in Armenia.



Boys painting in their bedroom at Camp Bedrosian in Shushi.



In the Auditorium at Camp Bedrosian in Shushi.

Bedrosians Visit Camp Bedrosian in Shushi

Bryan Bedrosian

In the summer of 2004 I completed my 6th trip to Armenia since 2001. During this trip I saw that not only was Yerevan on the move but the whole of Armenia was on the move.

I traveled 5 times along the highway going from Yerevan to the earthquake devastated city of Gyumri. This highway was built with monies from the Lincy Foundation and the United Armenia Fund.

Gyumri is a completely changed city from the destroyed city I first saw in 2001. In 2001 I vowed I'd never go to Gyumri again, because I was so sad seeing the living conditions of the Gymeritzis. The Gyumri I saw in the summer of 2004 was a city full of new, modern apartment buildings, repaired roads, outdoor markets full of goods and customers. A lot of the credit for this goes to the people of Gyumri, USAID, The Lincy Foundation, The Jinishian Memorial Fund and men like Aram Khachadurian of New York who ran the voucher exchange program where the people of Gyumri were given vouchers in exchange for their miserable domiks.

All along the highway from Yerevan to Gyumri farmers are growing various grains and tending their apricot orchards. Something is definitely happening in Armenia.

During my trip my wife Rosie, my son Armen, his cousin Paul Kehayan, and I, along with our good friends Hygo and Angel Ohannessian and AMAA Deputy Representative in Armenia Harout Nercessian and our driver Arsen Simonian, piled into the famous AMAA gazel (van) and drove to Karabagh to visit the Shoushi camp my family is sponsoring.

In November of 2003 Harout visited our business and factory facilities in Fowler Calif. During his visit one of my uncles asked him what our family could do to help spread the word in Armenia. He gave us three suggestions. We decided as a family to be the benefactors of the Shoushi Camp, since Karabagh is so important to the survival of Armenia. We felt it was very important that the children of Karabagh who have suffered so much be given hope



Outdoor games at Camp Bedrosian in Shushi.

through Jesus Christ. With this hope they will stay in Karabagh and work to make the area prosper.

It took us 8 hours to get to Shoushi from Yerevan and along the way we saw many fields of grain and farmers tending their flocks of goats and sheep. All of Armenia is on the move.

Arriving in Karabagh the first sign you see is 'Free and Independent Artsakh (the Armenian name for Karabagh) Welcomes You' When we saw this we just went crazy. When we arrived in Shoushi we went to the camp that my family is sponsoring.

The camp is situated on 8 acres and has a dormitory building, kitchen and cafeteria building, an administration building (which includes living quarters for camp workers) and an outdoor auditorium. The camp runs for 8 sessions with 100 campers per session. AMAA wants to increase the capacity of the camp to 170 campers per session. The camp is run by AMAA Karabagh director Arsen Minassian-a veteran of the war. The camp's Program Director is Aram Mratchian. Mr.



Bryan & Rosie Bedrosians (Middle left side) at Camp Bedrosian in Shushi with friends and camp leaders.

Sarkis Ochinian and Mr. Mher Sharbatian also served as Team Directors. Fifteen other Christian Educators serve at the camp in various capacities such as camp counselors, Games Director, Drama Director, etc. They are very dedicated and imaginative in putting together the camp programs.

The night we were there the campers treated us to Christian and patriotic songs during their evening session. It was very inspiring to hear these songs in Shoushi at this camp.

We spent 2 days at the camp. We came back to Yerevan physically tired but spiritually refreshed. G

Camp Arevelk hosts 5th Summer Program

David Shahbazian

Camp Arevelk hosted its 5th annual week-long summer camp ministry at East Jewett, NY, during the week of August 15-21, under the leadership of Rev. Ara Jizmejian. This year attendance grew by over 20% with 46 campers, and 14 advisory staff as more children and their parents learn of the popular camp ministry.

In addition to their morning worship service and evening devotions, the campers participate in numerous outdoor activities in the beautiful outdoors of the Catskill Mountains.

The guest speaker for the week was the West coast AEYF leader, Mr. Razmig Minassian, who preached on the value and importance of prayer as part of our daily routine. This year the Bible lessons are being videotaped and burned onto DVD's so that each camper can return home with a copy of the week's message and share it with their friends and family or replay whenever they need encouragement in their



daily routine.

We are gracious for the financial support of the AMAA and AEUNA, which has allowed us to offer several camp scholarships for those in need, as well as offset the exchange rate differential for our Canadian campers. Through continued prayer and

support of our campers, counselors and leaders, Camp Arevelk will continue to grow to new heights.

For more information on Camp Arevelk or to make a donation, please feel free to contact Rev. Ara Jizmejian at (508) 753-7650 or David Shahbazian at (845) 339-3676.G

The 61st General Assembly of the UAECNE July 4-7, 2004, Anjar - LEBANON

The sixty-first General Assembly of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) convened during July 4-7, 2004, in the Armenian Evangelical Church of Anjar, Lebanon. The main them was "Vision Implemented".

The opening worship service was held on Sunday, July 4, at 8:00p.m. The Assembly was attended by 52 delegates and standing members, and 40 honorary members from Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Greece, and Australia, and some guests. The messages of the convention were delivered by Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian who discussed with the audience the importance of understanding the church as community.

On the agenda of the working sessions were the reports of the President, the Central Committee and its finances. This year special reports from our churches in Iran, Turkey, Australia, and Greece were presented using audiovisual technology. The representatives of various institutions and instrumentalities of the UAECNE had the opportunity to present their reports: Haigazian University, Centers for the Armenian Handicapped of Lebanon, the Christian Endeavor Union of Syria and Lebanon, Community Councils of Lebanon and Syria, the Constitution Committee, Educational Councils of Syria and Lebanon and the Publications Office. The Assembly discussed issues raised by the different churches and, upon due deliberation, passed the appropriate resolutions.

Elections took place on the last day: Preacher Hrayr Cholakian and Mr. John Sagherian of Lebanon, and Rev. Serop Megrdichian and Mrs. Suzan Apartian of Syria were elected to join the Central Committee for three-year terms each.G



Armenian Evangelical Schools in Armenia and Karabagh

The Educational Program of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) in Armenia includes support to various educational institutions and direct scholarship aid to needy college students. Students in these schools, have the privilege to receive quality education in a Christian environment. This unique education helps to shape the character of our youth from early childhood. We trust that these individuals one day, will become exemplary citizens of their country, and in their turn will help and benefit their families and their nation.

The Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia

The Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia (ETAA) was founded on April 21, 1997, to prepare Christian educators, Sunday School Teachers and Pastors for the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Armenia. In 1999 the AMAA was able to secure a building in the western region of Yerevan for the use of the Seminary. Besides the classrooms, the Seminary students have under their disposition a library with books in Armenian, English and Russian.

In 2000, the Academy presented its first 16 graduates, who now serve in different locations, both in Armenia and Karabagh. The Academy has two programs – a 4 year program of Theological studies and 2 years of Christian Education studies. The current number of students in these programs are 13 and 10 respectively. As of today, the total number of graduates is 37. G



Khoren & Shoushanik Avedisian School of Yerevan, Armenia

The school, which was established in 1999, today has 100 students in the KG section and 80 students in the Elementary section (1st – 3rd grades). The school is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Avedisian of Lexington, MA.

The year-end program of the school took place on June 4, 2004. The sponsor of the school, Mr. Avedisian attended the program and at the end expressed his gratitude to the teachers, staff and the board members of the school for their dedication and excellent work and assured them of his continuous support. G



Antreassian Kindergarten #84 of Arapkir, Yerevan, Armenia

In July of 1999, by the decision of the Mayor of Arapkir region of Yerevan, the KG #84 in Arapkir was named after Rev. Dikran Antreassian, who was one of the heroes of the “40 Days of Mousa Dagh.”

The graduation service of the school was held on July 8, 2004, at which time, the 26 graduates presented a program of songs, recitations and Armenian dance, followed by an exhibition of their year-long art works. Each student received a backpack full of school supplies from the AMAA. G



"Shoushan" Elementary School Of Gyumri, Armenia

In the year 2003, the "Shoushan" Elementary School of Gyumri was completely renovated by the financial support of "Hope for Armenia" of France, and since 2004 the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno has taken the responsibility of sponsoring the school. The 2003-2004 Year-end Program of the school was held on July 26. Parents and guests enjoyed seeing their children perform and through their songs and recitations present their love to God, to their nation and homeland. G

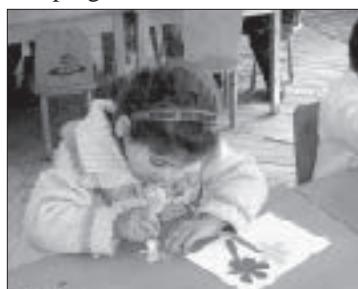


School #1 of Gyumri, Armenia

In the year 2000, by the decision of the Educational Council of the city, this school was named after Rev. Dikran Antreassian. The school was established in 1982, and was using an old Armenian-American Orphanage building. In 1997, the complete renovation of the building was financed by the AMAA. The school has elementary and high school sections and is recognized as one of the best educational institutions of Gyumri. The enrollment of the school is 900. G

Kindergarten of Talin, Armenia

The 2003-2004 Year-end Graduation Program was held on July 26. The program was full of Christian and Armenian spirit, which represented the year-long atmosphere in this Kindergarten. Each graduate received a back pack full of school supplies on their way to the 1st grade of Elementary School. The school is sponsored by Dorcas Aid International of Holland, a mission partner of the AMAA. G



Kindergarten of Askeran, Karabagh

Since 2001 the Armenian Missionary Association of Canada is sponsoring this Kindergarten. The school has 60 children. The Year-end Program was held on June 4, 25 children graduated.



Baghdigian Kindergarten of Stepanakerd, Karabagh

The "Hagop & Lydia Baghdigian" Kindergarten of Stepanakerd is sponsored by Vatche and Elbiz Baghdigian of Upper Saddle River, NJ. The Kindergarten has 50 students of which 13 graduated this year. The Year-end Graduation Program was held on July 17. G

Kindergarten of Shoushi, Karabagh



The school is now going through major renovations. G

The AMAA established The Shoushi Kindergarten in 1999. The family of Mr. Charles Bilezikjian of Yarmouth-port, MA are the sponsors of this Kindergarten which has an enrollment of 75 children. The Year-end Graduation Program was held on July 28 having the theme "We Go To School."

Kindergartens of Hadrout, Mardagerd and Mardouni – Karabagh

Since 2002, the AMAA has assumed the sponsorship of these three kindergartens. The enrollment of students in these schools is 40, 50 and 150 respectively. G

Haigazian University's 44th Commencement

Clad in gowns and caps, 88 graduates (35 students with the BA degree in the Faculty of Business Administration & Economics, 21 with the BA in the Faculties of Humanities and Social & Behavioral Sciences, 31 students with the BS degree in the Faculty of Sciences, and one student with the MA in Education - School Administration) of Haigazian University marched, following their instructors, to the platform to receive their degrees from the hands of Haigazian University President, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, then marched out of the University, as the President put it, "as potential business leaders, as educators and teachers, as social workers and as lab scientists." Eight students graduated with honors and one with high honors.

Rev. Nishan Bakalian, the Campus Minister, offered the invocation. Then President Haidostian welcomed the almost 1,300 invitees - politicians, diplomats, officials representing President of the Lebanese Republic General Emile Lahoud, Prime Minister Mr. Rafik Hariri, House Speaker Mr. Nabih Berry and Army Commander General Michel Sleiman, clergy, community leaders, parents, relatives and friends of Haigazian University.

"Haigazian University promises to continue its academic activities believing that a wholesome educational system is a unit that includes mental, spiritual, social and physical education," said the President, and added that Haigazian is convinced that Lebanon not only needs educated people, but also people who are mature, honest, fair and servant-spirited, and that in this precise sense Haigazian will continue to serve Lebanon and humanity.

The keynote speaker was the Personal Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon, Mr. Staffan De Mistura.

Mr. De Mistura's previous assignments have taken him to "where human-made or natural disasters have hit nations and countries," thus exposing essential but invisible human needs besides those of safety and nourishment. The distinguished guest



speaker, based on firsthand, personal experiences in Kosovo, Croatia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Chad, seasoned his speech with anecdotes, and highlighted three fundamental human needs: dignity, truth and positive thinking. His words were a heartwarming blend of academics and human needs. Mr. De Mistura challenged the graduates to steadfastly cherish their human dignity by being useful, to always have truth as an ally and to nurture positive thinking - filling the white space of a sheet of paper rather than focusing on the one black dot in its center.

Deans Dr. Fadi Asrawi and Dr. Arda Ekmekji presented the candidates for the degrees in the Faculty of Business Administration and Faculties of Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences and Sciences respectively, and President Haidostian handed them their degrees.

The program also included a valedictorian address. Mireille Bogharian, a Business Administration major, thanked the faculty & staff of Haigazian University and the parents for assisting them to reach graduation day. Speaking both in Arabic & English, Ms. Bogharian urged her classmates to be aware

of the emigration allure and instead of waiting for opportunities of success, she challenged them to create such opportunities with self-confidence and all that Haigazian gave them.

After singing of the Alma Mater, the President of Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, asked God's blessings upon the graduates. Finally, everybody joined in to congratulate the happy and proud students in the Mugar Garden of Haigazian University.

Prior to the Commencement Exercises, a Baccalaureate Service was held in the First Evangelical Church, on Sunday, June 27, to thank God for His grace and goodness throughout the academic year 2003-2004. The sermon was delivered by Dr. Mary Mikhael, the President of the Near East School of Theology. Then two students passed on the light they received from President Haidostian to their classmates and pledged, on behalf of all the graduates, to "hold high the light of truth, to defend the light of freedom and to spread the light of service" to their communities. G

The Armenian Evangelical Kindergarten of Kokkinia, Greece

On Wednesday, June 2, 2004, the children of the Armenian Evangelical Kindergarten of Kokkinia marched down the aisle escorted by their teachers - Mrs. Garineh Jarbigian & Mrs. Anna Kaledian, and up to the stage by singing "We the children of Armenian Nation."

After the Greek & Armenian national anthems were played, a student welcomed the audience. The program which followed included: spiritual choruses, national songs, recitations, drama and dance.

The daily life of the kindergarten was presented audio-visually projected on the screen.

The principal, Mrs. Salpi Cholakian, addressed the audience with the theme taken from the first and last sentences of a poem recited by the children, "We promise to learn our mother tongue very well, and use it everyday", "God knows all languages, but you may pray in Armenian". She emphasized the importance of the parents' role as a major in-

fluence on their children's growth to be Armenian and Christian. At the end of the graduation service, seven students received their diplomas presented by the principal Mrs. Salpi Cholakian, accompanied by the pastor of the

church, Rev. Vicken Cholakian and the chairman of the committee, Mr. Zaven Tokatlian.

The chairwomen of the Women's Auxiliary committee, Mrs. Sylvia Nercessian, donated a "Armenian Children's Bible 365 Stories" (as it is a tradition) to each graduate wishing them to be the ideal Armenian Christian person who will bring pride to all of us and thanked the parents for their trust in the Armenian Evangelical kindergarten.



The pastor invited father Varak Hovsepian of the Kokkinia St. Hagop Armenian Apostolic Church to give the blessing, after which the pastor ended the program by the apostolic blessing.

We praise God for a blessed and safe year, and we extend our appreciations and thanks to the AMAA family who every year bring their moral and financial support to the school to be able to continue its mission.

IN SEARCH OF SPONSORS

The Armenian Evangelical Kindergarten of Kokkinia, Greece will open its doors in September 2004 and the students once again will look forward for the aid they receive through AMAA Child Education Sponsorship Program. So far 10 students are sponsored, but many others, like Elena, Azad, Manoug and Silva are "in search of sponsors.". Please take a look at their pictures and find it in your heart to sponsor them. A gift of \$200 will keep one student in school for one year.



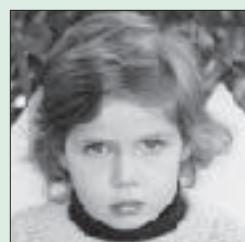
Yes, I want to sponsor child(ren) and make sure he/she attends

school. Enclosed is my contribution of \$.

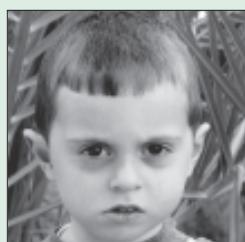
Name

Address:

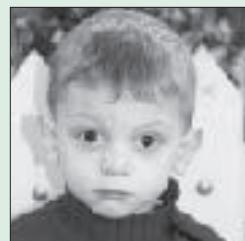
Tel: E-mail:



Silva



Manoug



Azad



Elena

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM AND MAIL IT TO AMAA
31 W. CENTURY RD. PARAMUS, NJ 07652 - E-MAIL: SPONSORSHIP@AMAA.ORG

Fa\vz1 Au; taranakan :k; [zi i n ÉÍðrd Tar; dar]i n A5i j ow

MI A|N ASTOUA^A<0UNC02W11

W; r1 Parg; u N1 Taragy; an

Fa\vz1 Au; taranakan me di mastou; ri n mh= an=n=; li t; [me oun; za6 h baz Sourb Gi rq me3 enj ; rzo[ow mi asin! A\ls ; [a6 h ÉÍð tarin; r a5a= Fa\vz1 Au; taranakan <arvoumi n 5afwi ran; roun m; xi j o[a6 auande! 9Bo[oqakan fa\; rhnow (a., arfabar fa\; rhn)3 Bo[oqakan Sourb Gi rq0; rhn baxmafari ur 7ri nakn; r3 oronq norouj i un hin a\ln 7r; roun3 K1 Polsi fa\vz1 kr7nakan i ,. anouj i un; roun framanow frki xou; zan fraparakow! Matj hos Patri arq Cou. ay; anin famar anendoun; li hin ; rkou kht; r1 a5a=i ne3 fa\; rhn grabar l; xoun Sourb Gi rqj kr7nakan l; xoun hr4 ou f; t; uabar3 art7n; li chr or ani ka 5amkakan (a., arfabar) l; xoui j argmanouhr! : rkrord4 mi a\ln ; k; [; zakan me i ,. anouj i un ounhr Sourb Gi rq kardalou\ ou bazatr; lou xa\ln ; k; [; zi i n mh=! A., arfakan me i rauounq counhr Sourb Gi rq kam Nor Ktakaran kr; lou grpani n mh=4 ; u manauand\ fraparakau kardalou xa\ln! Mi =ank; al ; u oura. ouj ; amb \a\tn; nq or a\ls mta\louj i un; rkar ct; u; z Ma\l r : k; [; zi i ,. anouj i un; roun m7t4 ou w; r=i n q5ord daroun enj azqi n4 ; u i rarer ; t; uhm\ , at g; [; zi k a., arfabarow ; u 6an7j agrouj i un; row Sourb Gi rq; r fratarakou; zan S1 H=mi a6i ni4 : rousa[hmi4 ; u Anj i li asi Aj o5n; roun ko[mh3 enj ; rzou; lou vo[owourdi n bolor . au; roun ko[mh! Ki li k; an S1 Aj o5i n Gafakale\ N1 S1 & T1 T1 Aram A1 Kaj o[i kose ÉÉÉÉ tarin f5caka6 hr Astoua6a,ounci Tari4 koc en; low fauataz; aln; rou or Astoua6a,ounce kardan\ ou ayin fog; uoraphs!

Fa\vz1 au; taranakann; rou m7t Sourb Gi rqj enj ; rzoume ; u s; rto[ouj i un sir; li ; u 7gtakar soworouj i un; r dar]a6 ; n! : k; [; zi n; rou mh= s; rto[ouj ; an masnauor . mbakn; r kan bolor tari qfamar4 oronz a5a=nordouj i un wstafoua6 h no\hisk fauataz; al ou patrastoua6 a., arfakan; rou! Fa\vz1 au; taranakann; r yanczoua6 ; n i br; u Sourb Gi rqj ousouzoumn; roun f; t; uo[n; r3 oronq qa=at; [; ak ke nkatouin na; u anor bowandakouj ; an! Anor ,our= \7rinoua6 ; rg; re qal\; rgi phs k3; rgouhi n anz; al i n bolor tari qfamar4 mardoz ko[mh!

11M; nq c; nq]g; r Sourb Gi rqe4

Astoua6a,ounci mat; an!

Qanxi mankanz h a5a=nord4

^; roz al gauaxan!

Als \7doua6i n npatake ch Sourb Gi rqj n ,our= gra. 7sakan me n; rkalazn; li ; u kam gr; l anor arvhqj n4 ; u m; [auorin ' rkouj ; an famar oun; za6 anxiougakan d; ri n ,our=! Asika ,at lau gi t; nq ou m; xmh ,at; roun ' or]a5ouj i un fog; uor k; anqin mh=3 wka\ h asor! Saka\ln a\ls 9Gi rq; rou Gi rqe0 i rakan farz ke da5na\ m; xi famar ; rb ani ka kardazoui a5anz fauataqj4

a5anz ,norfqj4 ; u a5anz Qristosi! : rb ani ka kardazoui i br; u . ofanozi gi rq (cook book)4 in cphs m; r Forum j ; rj i n w; r=i n j i ui n mh= namakagi r me k3aknarkhr a\ls ; r; uo]j i n4 ; u kam famarouj apagan gou,ak; lou mi =oz me3 souryi gauaj kardalou nman! Als paraga\ln h or Sourb Gi rqe ke dadri m; [auorin ' rkouj ; an mi =ozn; rhn mhke ellalh4 ou ke da5na\ parap wa. ti . a[ali q4 kam f; taqrqrouj i un gofazn; lou famar vamanzi qmafay k; rp me!

Astoua6a,ounci m; knabanouj i un an; rkba\7rhn ke kar7ti fauataz; al ; u patas. anatou masnaghti! Cxarmananq asor! A\lo\ amhn mard krna\ kardal xa\ln4 ; u 7gtouj l anor ousouzoumn; rhn4 ; u fog; uor snound stanal ankh! Saka\ln4 ; rb farze ou[i [m; knabanouj ; an kouga\ a., arfakan fog; uorn; rn i sk xgou, analou ; n a\ld marxhn n; rs mtn; lou! In cphs or m; r marmnakan fi uandouj i un; roun famar masnaght bvi ,kn; rou ke di m; nq4 no\ln mtafogouj i un; u Ir=ouj i un phtq h \a\tnab; r; nq m; r fog; kan farz; roun nkatmamb! Krna\h4 ; u ph\h4 t q h or Astoua6a,ounci m; nq4 ; u Sourb Fogi i n a5a=nordouj i un . ndr; nq m; r an]nakan fog; uor farz; roun famar! Krna\h4 ; u phtq h or Astoua6a,ounce kardanq fauataqj4 mi avamanak . ndr; low Sourb Fogi i n a5a=nordouj i un m; r fogin ; u mi tqe anfangstazno[. ndi rn; rou ,our=! Saka\ln4 xgou, ananq3 7rinaki famar4 margarhouj i un; re kardalow ; xrakazouj i un; rou \ang; lh3 a., arfi wa. yani n ou axg; rou yakatagirin ,our=4 ou xanong 9f; [inakauor0 k; rpow \a\tnar; lh! Fam; st7rhn endouni\h4 q j h a\ls marxe ke kar7ti fauataz; al ; u fmout astoua6abann; rou4 masnauoraphs3 Sourb Gi rqj astoua6abanouj ; an4 patmouj ; an4 ; u \araki z gi touj i un; rou mh= masnagi taza6 fauataz; al an]; rou! |arg; \h4 anonz fauataqj4 ; u gi touj i un4 ; u xgou, ana\h4 mi =in dar; rou \atouk fauataqj4 ; an at; ann; r fastat; lh anonz dhm!

: rb kardanq Astoua6a,ounce4 fon ke fandi pinq Astoua6a,gor6; lak; rp; roun4 patouhrn; roun4 ; u . ostoumn; roun! 0\c Astoua6a,ounci al Astoua6a,ounci ardarouj i un era6 k3ellang ; j h a\ld k; rp; re4 patouhrn; re4 ; u . ostoumn; re dours b; r; nq i r; nz patmakan ; u m,akouj a\ln parounakn; rhn (context)4 ou ÉÉrd daroun ' o. adr; nq3 bazar]akouj ; an bno]j talow anonz! Anonzmh ,at; re krnan takau\h4 i x7rou ellal m; r 7r; roun famar! (T; s ,ar1 la=ord h=i n wral)



Lo\ls T; sau W; r1 Parg; u N1 Taragy; ani 9AN" 0>ARI N: LI VA%ANGOUJ I UNE0

W; r1 Parg; u N1 Taragy; ani 9AN" 0>ARI N: LI VA%ANGOUJ I UNE0
girqe \apa[a6 fratarakouj i un men h4 or ke l; znh baz me Fa\ Au; taranakan mta6o[ouj ; an patmouj ; an mh=! W; r1 Taragy; an ke matouzanh m; xi famapar' ak patk; r me Fa\ Au; taranakan astoua6abanouj ; an xargazoumi patmouj ; an masin!

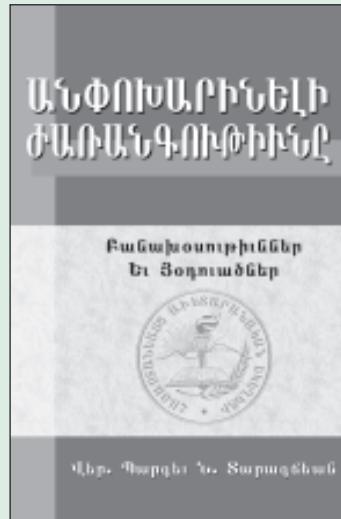
Ardar; w n; rka\ fa\; rhn fratarakouj i une a5a=inn h4 xor Am; rika\ i Fa\ Au; taranakan Enk; rakzouj i une ke stan]nh fratarak; ! Fa\ Au; taranakan fog; uor a5a=nordn; rou ko[mh groua6 ; n baxmaj iu fatorn; r Fa\ Au; taranakan ,arvoumi patmouj ; an masin! Anonzmh omanq ke kr; n k; nsagrakan dimagi! Kan na; u qaroxn; rou ;u . orfrda6ouj iunn; rou fauaqa6on; r ;u fog; uor ,inouj ; an sataro[gor6; r! A5a=in fatorn h a\ls4 or ke n; rka\aznh astoua6abanakan finnakan j ; man; row dasauoroua6 fama\napatk; r me! Fon ke gtn;nq na; u Fa\ Au; taranakan : k; [; zi in mta6o[ouj ; an . orqe!

Astoua6abanakan an\ari\l ankafakoumn; rou a\ls darous4 ;rb ;k; [; zin4 P7[os A5aq; ali bazatrouj ; amb4 9taroub; ra6 ou wardap; touj ; an amhn fowh fos ou fon q,oua60 wiyaki mh= h4 kar; uor h ;k; [; zi in\ ansal ir mhk ta[andauor a5a=nordin ;u w; rada5nal ir astoua6abanakan faraxat va5angin!

N; rka\ fatore piti mna\ i br ankiunadar]a\in gor6 me gali q tarin; rou s; roundn; rou\!

- W; r1 Dokt1 " ij er P1 T7[ramyi

W; ro\i ,; al Girqhn 7rinakn; r stanalou famar kar; li h dim; l Fa\ Au; taranakan Enk; rakzouj ; an K; dronat; [in - 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 - Iuraqanciu 7rinak k\arvh \ Am; rik; an tolar! F; [inakin4 incphs na; u Girqin m;k; nasn; rou\ Bv, koufi Ani Taragy; ani ;u ir amousin in\ Bvi, k Naxarhj H1 Taragy; ani ' a' aqow4 als girqhn ;ka6 fasolj e ambo[=ouj ;amb piti \atkazouj Fa\ Au; taranakan Enk; rakzouj ; an m7t fastatoua6 Arminh Andrhas; an Taragy; an |i, ataki ~7ntin!



Saka\ln4 a\ls ci n, anak; r or Astoua6 a\ls 7r; roun famar nor gor6; lak; rp; r4 nor patouhrn; r4 ;u nor . ostouumn; r couni kam3 ci krnar oun; nall : kh\q angamouan me famar4 ; u i raph\#s \arg; nq Astou6o\ AXATOUJ I UNE bolor dar; rou famar4 ou cbantark; nq xA\ln dar; r a5a= groua6 girqi me mh=3 orqan al sourb ella\ a\ld! Astoua6 ; rhkouan4 a\ls7rouan4 ; u wa[ouan Astoua6n h4 ou MI <T NOR ke mna\ i r nor ou norogo[\a\ltouj i unn; row! Fin Ktakarani margarhn; re4 ; u |i sous I\#h\q \a\ltarar; zin Astou6o\ ; u Anor patouhrn; roun mi , t nor4 ; u norouj i un b; ro[ouvakanouj i une! Margarhn; re esin 9Ls; r hq or esou; zau\l BA|Z\l10! M; r Thre |i souse esau\ 9Ls; r hq or groua6 h 111 BA|Z :s] ; xi k3es; m\l10! lowfannhs au; taranic oun; zau Astou6o\ norouj ; an \a\ltouj i une ; rb gr; z\ 9Afa amhn ban; re nor k3en; m\l10 |a\lt1 \EE1 \!

Fa\ Au; taranakan <arvoumel ou :k; [; zin i r; nz 6agoumow ; u bno\j ow margarhakan ; [a6 ;n! M; r fog; uor fowi un; re kancoua6 ; n oc j h gou, akn; r ellalou\ fapa

margarhn; r3 oronq nor 7r; rou famar nor patgamm; r k3a5n; n Astou6mh4 ou famar]ak7rhn ke \a\ltarar; n xanonq! Anonq ke fauatan or Astoua6a, ounce ouni margarhakan patgamm; r m; [auorin ' rkouj ; an famar oronq |i sous Qristosi k; anqow4 maflow4 larouj i unow4 ou w; rstingalou . ostoumow mi , t ke norogoui! Asonq ke \a\tnab; rouin fauataz; alin k; anqin ; u ' or]a5ouj ; an mh=3 fauatqow4 , norfqow4 ; u |i sous Qristosow\ mi #, t nor4 ; u mi #, t norogo[! Sourb Gi rqe ci pa, toui r4 ba\z ke n; r, nch m; x4 ou k3a5a=nordh xAstoua6 pa, t; lou!

Mi a\ln Astoua6a, ounco2w! A\lo\# pa\manow or anor mi anan margarhakan nor t; si lq4 fauatq4 park; , touj i un4 ; u qa=ouj i un4 ba\z manaua\#d |i sous Qristose\ Sourb Fogi i n a5a=nordouj ; amb3 I r m, t anorog , norfqow ou ' a5qow! Thr |i sous mi , t nor h4 ou amhn ban; re nor k3enh anonz famar or norouj i un endoun; lou astoua6atour , norfqe ouni n i r; nz mi t q1 n4 fogi i n4 ; u k; anqin mh=! G

AMAA HELPS VICTIMS OF HURRICANE CHARLEY

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has issued an appeal to provide humanitarian aid to those affected by Hurricane Charley.

The latest reports indicate at least 23 people dead, tens of thousands of people left homeless and close to one million people left without power, caused by one of the worst storms ever to hit Florida.

As an expression of their Christian concern and solidarity, the AMAA has requested that Armenian Evangelical Churches remember those affected by this catastrophe through prayers and special relief offerings. An appeal is also made to AMAA members and friends to respond to the urgent needs in Florida and help alleviate the suffering of people in the area.

The AMAA is the missionary arm of the Armenian Evangelical churches worldwide, and its relief efforts are primarily directed to Armenian communities in need of assistance in Armenia and in the Diaspora. Nevertheless, the AMAA also concerns itself with the needs of victims of



Searching for personal items among the wreckage of her home on the outskirts of Punta Gorda, Fla. Sunday, Aug. 15, 2004. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

natural and manmade disasters around the world. Over the years, the AMAA has provided relief aid to victims of earthquakes in Southern California, India, Colombia, and other countries; survivors of hurricanes and floods in Central America, Florida, Minnesota and other places; and refugees displaced by civil wars in Rwanda, Somalia, Zaire, Ethiopia, Yugoslavia and other nations.

Armenians have repeatedly experienced man-made and natural catastrophes, and that's why we understand the plight of suffering people, and should be willing to help the helpless and the destitute.

Donations received will be added to AMAA's aid and will be channeled through the Wider Church Ministries of United Church of Christ, a longtime international colleague agency of the AMAA.

Those who wish to help may fill out the contribution form and return it to the AMAA with their tax-deductible check earmarked "Florida Hurricane Relief". G

Yes, I would like to reach out to the AMAA's efforts to help the victims of Hurricane Charley.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____.

Name: _____

*Address: _____
_____*

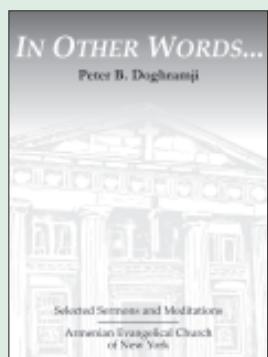
Book Notice - *In Other Words...* By Rev. Peter Doghramji , Ph.D.

Published by the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York

*The essays, sermons, talks, meditations, and lectures in Dr. Doghramji's *In Other Words* provide insightful coverage on matters vital to Christians. Lucid, compact, yet eloquently presented, they present a clear understanding and a new perspective on biblical, theological and social issues.*

Honest without being offensive, faith-filled without being pious, instructive without being pedantic, this book offers wise and practical guidelines to spiritual life. Elegantly written and warmly felt, the book abounds in fresh insights which will help the readers to find the quiet center of life in God's love.

*Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian, D.Min.
Executive Director, Armenian Evangelical World Council*



Copies of the above book can be obtained from the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, 152 East 34th Street, New York, NY 10016, Tel. (212) 685-3177. The cost of the book is \$20.00.

OBITUARIES

Nerses Y. Aynilian

Nerses Youssouf Aynilian of Fort Lee, NJ was born September 7, 1918 shortly after his parents Beatrice and Youssouf Aynilian and two older sisters Ephronia and Lydia moved to Aleppo, Syria. Later the family was further blessed with its youngest member, brother Vahram.



Nerses, against his father's wishes, left school at the age of 12 to help his father in the family business, which had been badly affected during the Depression. Through hard work and perseverance, the financial difficulties were surmounted, and father and son began to build a future together. In time when brother Vahram was old enough, he too joined in the business.

Youssouf, Nerses and Vahram continued working together and exploring new markets to expand into. The family suffered a tragic loss in 1947, when Nerses' younger brother Vahram died suddenly of typhoid fever. Throughout his life his reflections of his beloved brother would bring tears to his eyes.

In 1948 Nerses married Arpine Meghrigian and together they began planning their own family in Beirut, Lebanon. His eldest son, Vahram was born shortly after. Subsequently, in 1952 Nerses decided to relocate his family permanently to America. Over the next several years, Nerses' life was filled with other blessed events with the birth of 2 daughters, Alice and Betty. Unfortunately, all was not well back in Beirut. Nerses' father had suffered a severe stroke and so he decided to bring his parents to live with his family in America.

By 1963 Nerses and Arpine were once again blessed with the birth of their youngest son, Nicholas. Nerses could not wait to bring his newborn son home to share with his mother and ailing father. Within 5 years, Nerses suffered the loss of both parents.

Nerses continued to build his business and in time fulfilled his dream of bringing both Vahram and Nicholas into the business with him.

Throughout Nerses' life, he not only possessed a strong work ethic but an undeniable faith in God. His Christian beliefs chal-

lenged him to help as many as he could whether with donations, deeds or kind and comforting words. Nerses' optimistic personality and smile were infectious to those around him.

As part of his life's work and generosity, Nerses joined many organizations and supported the church. He was a commander for the Knights of Vartan, an active member and past board member of the Armenian Missionary Association, and a member of the Armenian Evangelical Church of NY where he held a multitude of positions throughout the years. In addition, Nerses was a former director and treasurer of the AEUNA and a life member of the Free Masons. He supported many groups that dealt with his ancestry including the Aintabzees. In reviewing his life's accomplishments and studying the journey he took, several characteristics stand out and truly define Nerses' life. They can be summed up in 3 words: Friends, Family, and Faith. With respect to friends he was loyal and blessed with many who he treated like as brother or a sister.

With respect to family, his love abounded and there was nothing he would not do for any of them, so much so that even somewhat distant relatives looked to him in a paternal manner.

As for faith, it was unquestioned in its strength and unlimited. His faith was simple. A gift that he passed along to all he encountered in his life's journey.

Nerses went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, July 9, 2004 in Beirut, Lebanon, where he had traveled to attend a family wedding. His body was flown to New Jersey for burial.

A memorial service was held at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ on Sunday, July 18 in the evening and a Funeral Service on Monday morning at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York followed by the interment at Brookside Cemetery in Englewood, NJ. The memorial and funeral services were officiated by Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji and Rev. Berj Gulleyan.

At the request of the family, memorial donations in lieu of flowers were sent to the AMAA - Aynilian Family Endowment Fund.

Nerses is now with his Lord, resting in peace. G

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News.

- * **Asadrian, Gladys**
Baghdoyan, Maro
Watertown, MA
- * **Chaglasian, Elizabeth**
New Britain, CT
- Gelenian, Laura**
Mansfield, MA
- Geuvjehizian, Grace**
Fresno, CA
- * **Gostanian, Nevart**
- Haig, Douglas Y.**
Valencia, CA
- * **Igubashian, Ashkhen**
Glendale, CA
- Kupeyan, Garabed**
Montreal, Que. Canada
- * **Levonian, Ophelia**
Troy, NY
- * **Macktarian, Hermine**
Detroit, MI
- * **Mangasarian, Virginia**
Philadelphia, PA
- * **Mirsoian, Arpik**
- * **Nagel, Marian**
Plymouth, MI
- * **Nahabedian, Zevart Gaye**
Englewood, NJ
- * **Sepetjian, Elise**
Watertown, MA
- * **Shapian, Rose**
Ridgefield, NJ
- * **Zakaroff, Geraldine**
CA

* Memorials designated for AMAA

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 85th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Eighty Fifth Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. at the AMAA Headquarters, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ. All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the meeting to:

- I. Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Committees, Chapters, and Affiliated boards of the Association for fiscal 2003-2004;
- II. Consider and approve the financial reports for fiscal 2003-2004;
- III. Announce the results of the elected eight Board members to replace those whose terms have expired;
- IV. Elect four members to the Nominating Committee;
- V. Elect an Auditor;
- VI. Consider and act upon any other business that may legitimately come before the membership.

PROGRAM OF THE 85th ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 14

9:30 a.m.....Armenian Evangelical World Council Meeting

Friday, October 15

9:30 a.m.....Missions Conference - Reports from the Fields

7:30 p.m.....AMAA Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, October 16

9:30 a.m.....AMAA 85th Annual Meeting

2:00 p.m.....AMAA Board of Directors' Meeting

7:30 p.m.....Banquet and Piano Recital

Sunday, October 17

11:00 a.m....85th Annual Meeting Worship Service at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.

As members of the AMAA world-wide family, we look forward to this annual gathering to renew our ties of fellowship as Armenian Evangelical churches and communities, and to strengthen our common mission around the world. With joy we eagerly anticipate your presence and participation.

Armenian Missionary Association of America

31 West Century Road

Paramus, NJ 07652

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Paramus, NJ
Permit No. 55